

STRANGE

THE
SENSATIONAL

TALES

SUB-MARINER

TACKLES OUR TWO BATTLING BUDDIES!

The
**HUMAN
TORCH**

and The
Ever-Lovin'

THING!



ONCE AGAIN, MARVEL'S
MIGHTY HERO/VILLAIN
JOINS OUR TWO JOLLY
PLAYMATES FOR ANOTHER
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THE HUMAN TORCH *and* **the EVER-LOVIN' THING**

"THE SUB-MARINER MUST BE STOPPED!"

TRY TO SWAT ME WITH THAT ASBESTOS RUG, WILL YA? IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED YOU WHO'S TOP MAN AROUND HERE!

LET'S JOIN OUR TWO CALM, QUIET, BASHFUL BUDDIES AS THEY SPEND A RELAXING AFTERNOON AT F.F. HEADQUARTERS ENGAGED IN THEIR USUAL CULTURAL PURSUITS...

TOP MAN!? YOU RED-FACED REFUGEE FROM A KINDER-GARTEN! I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO Clobber ya or give ya a spankin'!

ANOTHER MIGHTY MARVEL MISADVENTURE OF MAGNIFICENT MERRY MAYHEM!

WRITTEN BY WORD-SLINGIN'
STAN LEE
DRAWN BY PICTURE-SKETCHIN'
DICK AYERS
INKED BY INK-SPLATTERIN'
PAUL REINMAN
LETTERED BY PEN-PUSHIN'
S. ROSEN

HOLD IT! HOLD IT, YOU ORNERY
ORANGE ORANGUTAN! THE
WARNING VIEWPLATE IS GLOWING!
WE'VE GOT VISITORS!!



BIG DEAL!
WHADDAYA
WANT ME TO
DO...BAKE
A CAKE?!

NO! JUST
CLAM UP
TILL WE
SEE WHAT
THEY WANT!

HEAR THAT,
HALF-PINT??
WE'LL SOON BE
CROWDIN' THE
BEATLES OFF
THE FRONT PAGE!

ANYONE THERE?? WE'RE FROM
LIFE MAGAZINE! WE'VE COME
TO GET AN INTERVIEW!

OKAY...COME
ON UP!

BETTER STRAIGHTEN
UP THIS MESS, BIG
BUDDY!!

SURE! WHEN-
EVER YA WANT
SOMETHIN',
I'M YOUR BIG
BUDDY! NO ONE
LOVES ME
FOR MY
OWN SWEET
SELF!

HEY, JOHNNY...
MAYBE YOU
BETTER GO
SOUP UP YOUR
CAR OR SOME-
THIN'! YOU
MIGHT CRAMP
MY STYLE WHEN
I'M BEIN' INTER-
VIEWED!

YOUR STYLE?
ARE YOU
KIDDIN'??
IT'S ME THEY
WANNA INTER-
VIEW! BUT YOU
CAN HANG
AROUND!..
JUST FOR
LAUGHS!

FACE IT, SQUIRT
YOU KNOW THAT
I'M THE GLAMOR
BOY OF THIS
COMBO!!

BENJAMIN,
YOU'RE ABOUT
AS GLAMOROUS
AS A RUSTY
DRAINPIPE...
AND TWICE AS
NOISY! UN-OH!
HERE THEY COME
NOW!



HI, GENTS!
I'M ALL
READY TO BE
INTERVIEWED!

SORRY, TORCH!
IT'S NOT YOU
WE WANT!

NATCH!
I TOLD
IM IT
WAS
ME!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT'S
NEITHER OF YOU! WE
CAME HERE TO SEE MR.
FANTASTIC AND THE
INVISIBLE GIRL!!

HuHu



TRY TO MAKE A FOOL OUTTA ME, WILLYA?! WELL, RUBBERHEAD AND SUE AINT HERE NOW, AND AS FOR YOU---

I'LL GIVE YA TEN SECONDS FLAT TO GET OUTTA - HERE!!

NOW D-DON'T GET MAD! WE'RE GOING... WE'RE GOING!

WE DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND ANYONE!

AND NEXT TIME DON'T INTERRUPT A PERFECTLY GOOD FIGHT JUST FOR NOTHIN'!



IMAGINE THEM WANTIN' TO INTERVIEW SUE AND RUBBERLEGS INSTEAD OF US! I GOT A GOOD MIND TO....!!

COOL IT, PAL! IF YOU HAD A GOOD MIND, MAYBE YOU'D BE THE ONE THEY WANT!!



WELL, WELL! AIN'T YOU THE FUNNY MAN ALL OF A SUDDEN?!!

HEY! HOLD EVERYTHING! THERE'S A PICTURE COMIN' IN OVER OUR EMERGENCY ALARM TELE-SCANNER!!

AND LOOK WHO IT IS! IT'S WEB-HEAD... NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!



QUICKLY SWITCHING ON THEIR DEFENSE ALERT AUDIO RECEIVER, OUR BATTLING BUDDIES HEAR...

WARNING! WARNING! ATTENTION ALL COASTAL DEFENSE UNITS! PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER, HAS BEEN SIGHTED SWIMMING TOWARDS NEW YORK HARBOR!



SINCE THE LAST DEFEAT OF HIS INVADING UNDERSEA FORCES*, WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR HIS NEXT ATTACK! THIS MAY BE IT!



SOUNDS PRETTY SERIOUS, BEN!

AWW, WHAT HARM CAN ONE WATER-BREATHTHIN' FLAT-HEAD DO?!!

BUT IT MAY NOT BE JUST ONE BEN! HE MAY HAVE AN ENTIRE UNDERSEA ARMY SWIMMING BEHIND HIM... LIKE LAST TIME HE INVADED THE SURFACE WORLD!!

YEAH! I KINPA

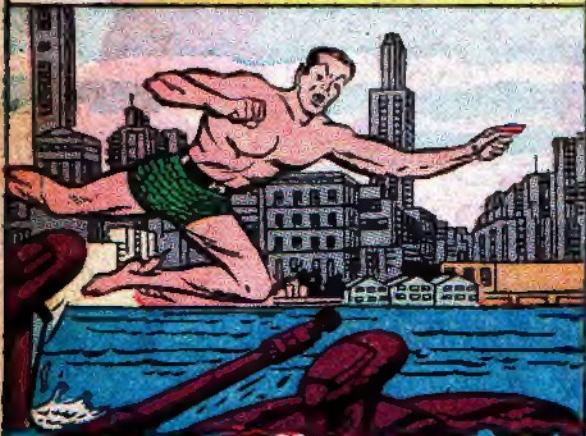
FORGOT ABOUT THAT! OL' FISH-FACE SURE GAVE US A FIGHT, DIDN'T HE?



* SEE F.F. ANNUAL #1... EDITOR.



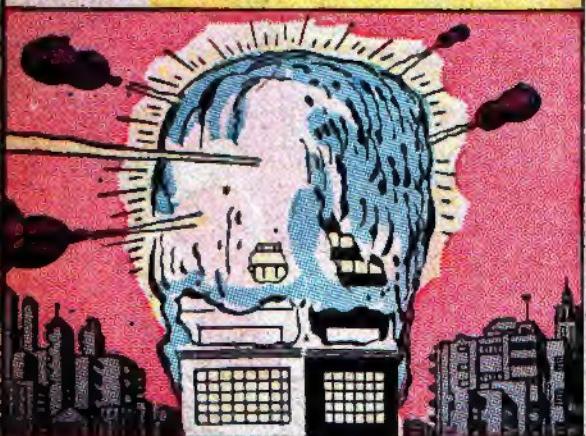
"I REMEMBER THAT NAMOR WAS THE FIRST ONE THAT WE SAW! NOBODY SUSPECTED HE WAS LEADING AN ENTIRE INVASION ARMY AT THE TIME! IT SURE WAS A SIGHT, SEEING HIM FLY AROUND WITH THOSE LITTLE WINGS ON HIS FEET!"



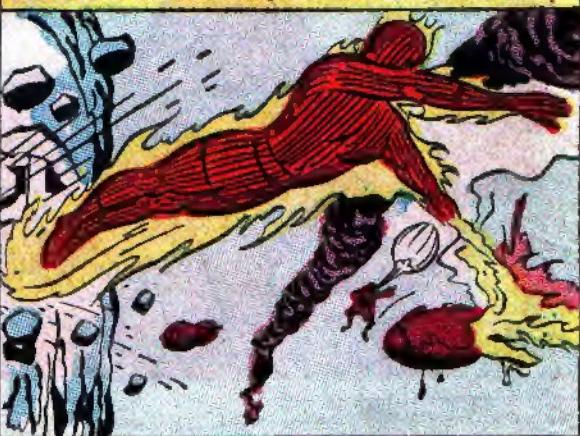
"I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS CAN KEEP 'M UP IN THE AIR! ANYWAY, BEFORE WE KNEW IT, ALL THOSE BLUE-SKINNED YAHOO'S OF HIS WERE PILIN' ASHORE!"



"AND REMEMBER HOW HE TOOK OVER THE TOP OF THE BAXTER BUILDING, LAUNCHING AN ATTACK RIGHT FROM OUR OWN HEADQUARTERS?? I'VE GOTTA ADMIT I WAS A MIGHTY WORRIED HUMAN TORCH RIGHT AROUND THEN!"



"YEAH? WELL, YOU DIDN'T DO SO BAD FOR A WORRIED KID! YOU TORE THROUGH THOSE PLANES OF HIS LIKE THEY WERE NUTHIN'!!... WHILE I WAS DOIN' THE IMPORTANT FIGHTIN' DOWN ON THE GROUND, OF COURSE!"



"AND THEN, JUST AS I WAS GETTIN' READY FOR Clobberin' TIME, OL' KILL-JOY RICHARDS COOKED UP SOME DIZZY INVENTION THAT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR NAMOR'S PLAY-MATES TO BREATHE IN THEIR HELMETS!"



"YEP! AND THAT'S HOW IT ENDED! THEY ALL RACED BACK TO THE SEA AND HEADED FOR ATLANTIS, OR WHEREVER THEY CAME FROM! BUT NAMOR ALWAYS THREATENED TO RETURN, WITH A NEW INVASION... AND THIS MAY BE IT!"



WELL, I'D BETTER SEND UP A FLARE SIGNAL TO REED, SO THAT HE AND SUE CAN... HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?

FORGET THOSE TWO! THEY GET ENOUGH PUBLICITY! HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT WE CAN DO WITHOUT 'EM!!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE F.F.'S FAMOUS U-CAR SPEEDILY SKIMS THE SURFACE OF THE SEA AS IT HEADS FOR THE SPOT WHERE THE SUB-MARINER LAST WAS SIGHTED!

FOR ONCE YOU'RE RIGHT, BIG BEN! THIS'LL SHOW THOSE TWO REPORTERS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE INTERVIEWED US!

YEAH! I'VE BEEN ITCHIN' TO TANGLE WITH THAT WATER-LOGGED LOUDMOUTH FOR MONTHS! ALL I WANT IS ONE GOOD WHACK AT 'IM!



NOW LOOK, CHUM... NOBODY INVITED YOU TO HOG THE WHOLE SHOW! WE'RE GONNA FIGHT HIM TOGETHER, REMEMBER?

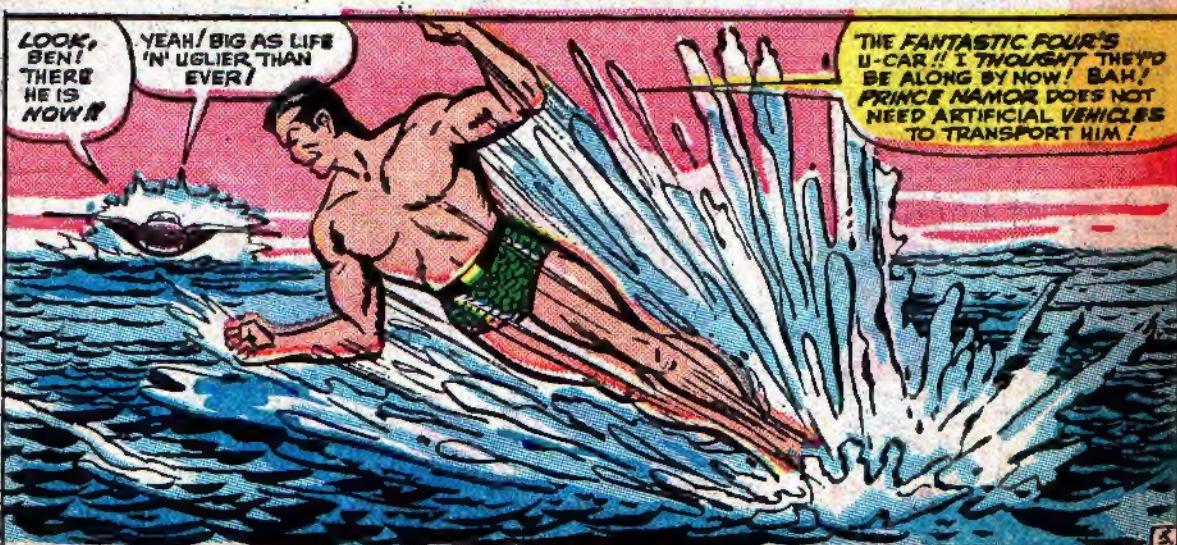


I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YA, JUNIOR! WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH 'IM, YOU CAN HAVE WHAT'S LEFT... IF YOU CAN FIND IT!



LOOK, BEN! THERE HE IS NOW!!

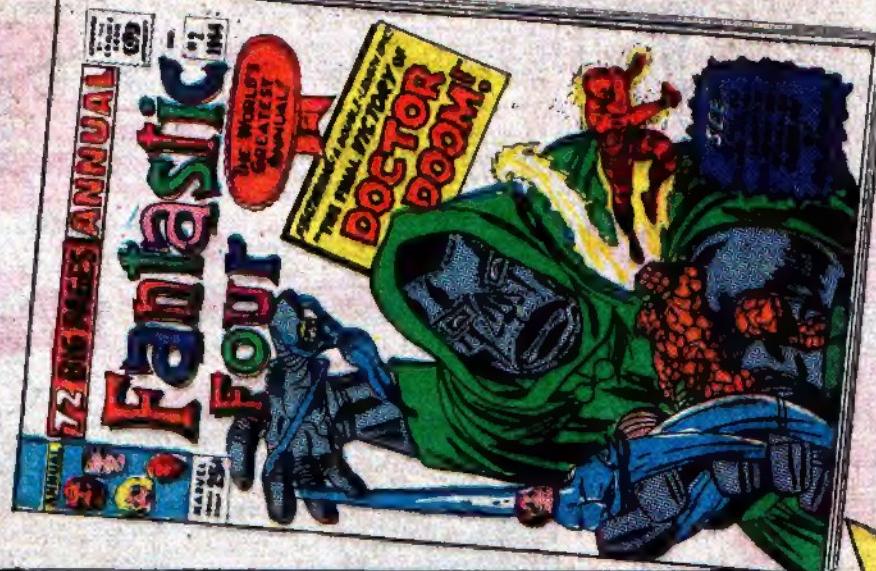
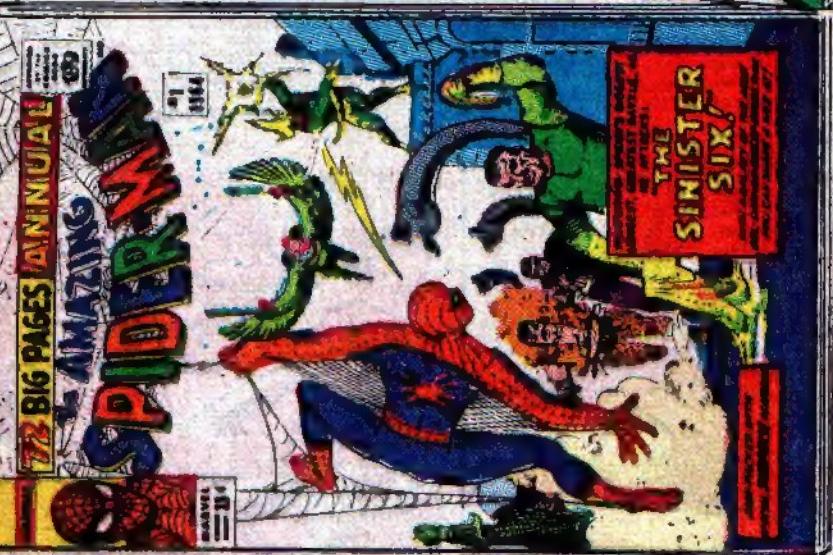
YEAH! BIG AS LIFE 'N' UGLIER THAN EVER!



THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S U-CAR!! I THOUGHT THEY'D BE ALONG BY NOW! BAH! PRINCE NAMOR DOES NOT NEED ARTIFICIAL VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT HIM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MORE TRIUMPHS FOR MARVEL...!



NOW ON SALE

BOYS! MEN! I'LL HELP YOU MASTER

YUBIWAZA

— says N.J. FLEMING — YUBIWAZA MASTER

***(YUBIWAZA IS THE SECRET, AMAZINGLY EASY ART OF SELF-DEFENSE THAT TURNS JUST ONE FINGER OR YOUR HANDS INTO A POTENT WEAPON OF DEFENSE—WITHOUT ANY BODILY CONTACT...)**

In just 2 hours after you receive "YUBIWAZA" you will be on your way to being an invincible Yubiwaza Master, at home, this fast, EASY picture way or it costs you nothing.



WHAT YUBIWAZA CAN DO FOR YOU IN JUST A FEW SECONDS . . .

11:00 P.M.—You return from dance. Headlines throw threatening remarks to your date.

The VITAL Decision is YOURS to make: Which shall it be? To play it "chicken" by running away? Be a "hothead" and be beaten up? Mail coupon now and be prepared with Yubiwaza to send your attackers flying!

I'M A 3rd-DEGREE HOLDER OF THE BLACK BELT—SYMBOL OF HIGH PROFICIENCY IN THE JAPANESE SYSTEM OF SELF-DEFENSE THAT USES NO WEAPONS BUT BARE HANDS.

I spent many years in Japan learning these little-known SECRETS. The most amazingly effective of all Self-Defense techniques that stood out in ALL my Japanese Training is contained in my

AMAZING new Yubiwaza book — all yours to have if you ACT NOW. YUBIWAZA is the name of a Japanese system of Self-Defense that makes use of an EASY-to-Learn knowledge of vital body areas and the techniques of the use of just ONE Finger or the entire hand to counteract & overcome ANY violent attack. It is commonly known that with the aid of Yubiwaza, young men — and girls, too! — with only a few hours of training, turn back 2, 3 and even 4 attackers — temporarily DISABLING ONE, putting another to flight, making a third howl with pain, while the fourth begged his opponent to stop!

NOW YOU TOO CAN LEARN YUBIWAZA!

The experts in Japan, who know and teach these ONE-finger techniques, have now explained that YUBIWAZA is a centuries-old system of Self-Defense which is as simple and as effective as that outsiders were never instructed in its use. The system was restricted to Japanese who SWORE to apply these methods only in time of danger and attack by an aggressor. Many of the very techniques in my Yubiwaza book, once highly guarded secrets of the ancient Samurai warriors, never shown to outsiders are now shown to you — FIRST time!

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Send your complete YUBIWAZA Program in plain wrapper. I enclose \$1.00 as payment in full—nothing more to buy. My friends and I must be delighted with my amazing new YUBIWAZA program, or you will get your money in full. Include my FREE copy of YUBIWAZA or personal copy of HOW TO EASILY OVERCOME AND MASTER AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX, BASHFULNESS AND SHYNESS and HOW TO DO STRONG-MAN STUNTS WITH EASE.

NAME _____ AGE _____

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"I WEIGH ONLY 98 LBS. — YET I CAN PARALYZE A 200 POUND ATTACKER WITH JUST A FINGER — BECAUSE I KNOW YUBIWAZA!"

says Yoshiie Imanami — Pretty Japanese wife of N.J. Fleming — Yubiwaza Master



can make him say "uncle" quickly — with the help of YUBIWAZA!

MASTER EVERY SITUATION!

Make no mistake! The world is crowded with antisocial enemies who think nothing of sticking a knife into the ribs . . . or attacking peace-loving citizens just for the fun of it . . . or molesting boys and girls shamelessly. There is a crying need for a system of self-defense that relies on a system of KNOWLEDGE, not big muscles or strength . . . that depends on TECHNIQUE — not weight or size of body . . . that is based on SIMPLY TRAINING — not illegal possession of weapons. When you know YUBIWAZA you can disarm and disable your opponent in seconds. You can repel a mugger who grabs you from behind—no matter how big he is or how much he weighs. Instantly you know WHERE to attack, and how. You learn the body's major vulnerable regions, the defense or strongest position to take, and your body's personal weapons which you can apply to maximum advantage. I have sum-pakced all I know about YUBIWAZA into my Guide, which I have profusely illustrated and clearly explained. I take you step-by-step through the fundamentals of this amazing system so that you understand clearly and immediately how these effective principles work. You learn those tricks used by marines, police and Queen . . . how to overpower any bully . . . how to knock out bats that will make any attacker helpless. No matter whether you are big or small, strong or weak, you can overpower your opponents with lightning speed!

BECOME A NEW MAN!
Knowledge of YUBIWAZA will turn you into a NEW MAN even if you never actually have to use it! You will become SELF-ASSURED through your ability to handle yourself. You will walk with a determined air secure with the knowledge that NOTHING can frighten you . . . that you can deal with ANY man, ANY weapon, ANY situation—and that you can do all this with NO bodily contact! And you will win respect and admiration from everyone.

Thousands of men of all ages have won confidence and respect by learning YUBIWAZA. YOU can do the same! You owe it to your own peace of mind . . . to your friends and loved ones—to be able to defend yourself in these days when attack may come at any time and place from hoodlums, criminals and delinquents. So mail Coupon NOW for my COMPLETE instruction on YUBIWAZA. If you and your friends don't say that YUBIWAZA has made a NEW MAN out of you, every cent will be refunded!

TWO FREE GIFTS!

If you order now, I'll include without extra charge 2 free gifts: your personal copy of HOW TO EASILY OVERCOME AND MASTER AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX, BASHFULNESS AND SHYNESS—plus HOW TO DO STRONG-MAN STUNTS WITH EASE. And if you order promptly, I'll also include without extra charge your personal Membership Card in the American Yubiwaza Federation.

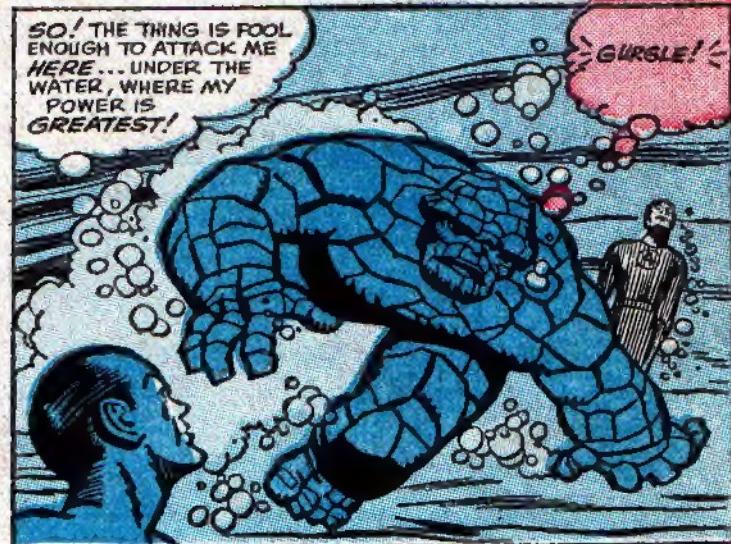
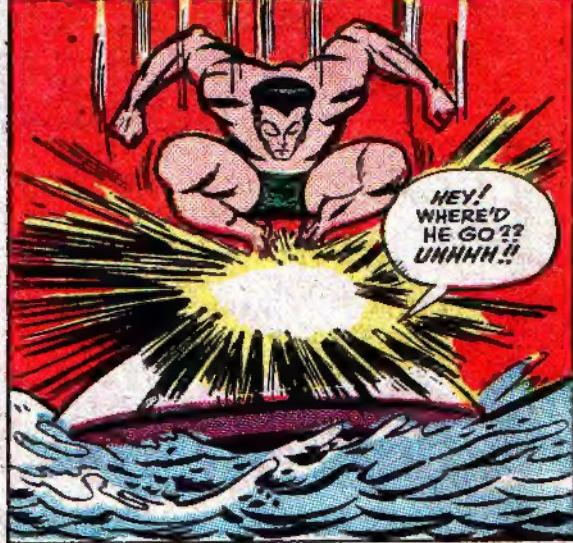
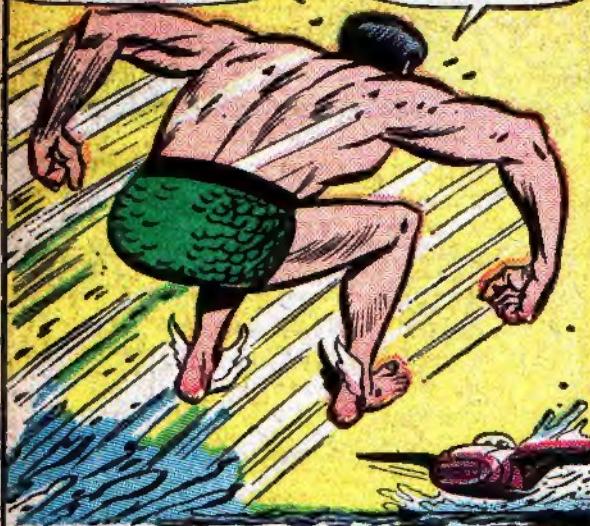
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PACKED WITH PHOTOS
AND ILLUSTRATIONS
BY N.J. FLEMING
AND HIS WIFE
YOSHIE

THEY'RE NOT SLOWING DOWN! THEY'RE HEADING RIGHT TOWARDS ME AT ATTACK VELOCITY!

WELL, THEY SHALL LEARN THAT THE SUB-MARINER IS NO MERE SITTING TARGET!

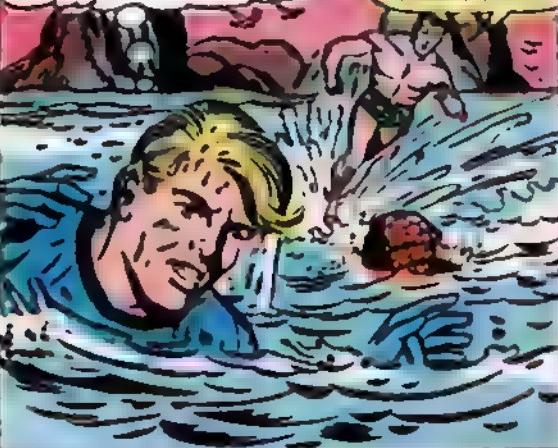
STRIKING SWIFTLY, WITH THE SPEED OF A THUNDERBOLT, THE MONARCH OF THE SEA PLUMMETS DOWN UPON THE SPEEDING CRAFT...



WHW! I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT! OL' BEN IS LUCKY HE HAS SUPER-STRONG LUNGS... HE CAN HOLD HIS BREATH MUCH LONGER!

I CALL UPON YOU BOTH TO SURRENDER! YOU ARE COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY HERE!

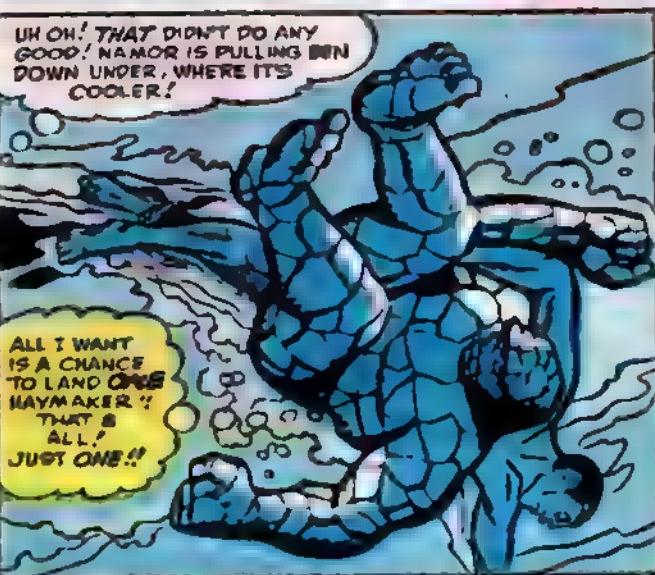
SURRENDER, MY FOOT! I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FLAME ON HERE, BUT I CAN STILL MAKE MY BODY HOT ENOUGH TO STEAM UP THE WATER ALL AROUND ME!



UH OH! THAT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD! NAMOR IS PULLING BEN DOWN UNDER, WHERE IT'S COOLER!

NOTHING BUT MY OWN FLAME CAN DO ANY GOOD AGAINST NAMOR! I'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO FLAME ON AGAIN!

LUCKY THIS REEF IS NEARBY! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO DRY OFF!



IT SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG. THE SUN IS BLAZING HOT, AND MY OWN NATURAL BODY HEAT IS HELPING, TOO!

MEANTIME, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE, NAMOR SEEMS TO GROW EVER STRONGER AS HIS NORMALLY-POWERFUL OPPONENT FLOUNDERS HELPLESSLY IN THE AIRLESS DEEP...

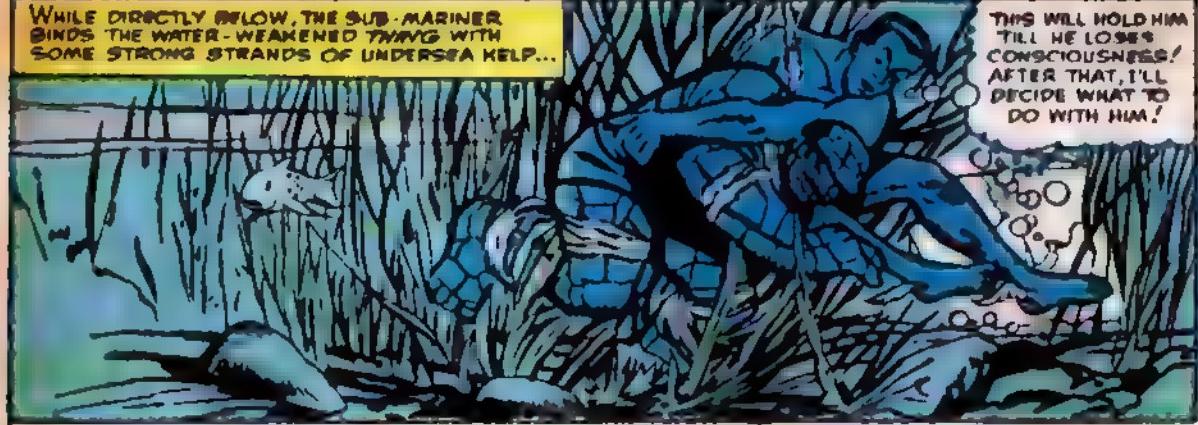
IF ONLY THE WORLD COULD SEE THE FAMOUS THING BEING PUMMLED WITH EASE BY PRINCE NAMOR!!



BUT, DIRECTLY ABOVE THAT SPOT, ANOTHER AWESOME SIGHT TAKES PLACE...



WHILE DIRECTLY BELOW, THE SUB-MARINER
BINDS THE WATER-WEAKENED THING WITH
SOME STRONG STRANDS OF UNDERSEA KELP...



THIS WILL HOLD HIM
TILL HE LOSES
CONSCIOUSNESS!
AFTER THAT, I'LL
DECIDE WHAT TO
DO WITH HIM!

IT'S GOOD TO BE IN
BATTLE AGAIN! THIS
IS THE EXISTENCE I
WAS DESTINED FOR!
AND NOW FOR
THE TORCH!!



BUT, BEFORE PRINCE NAMOR
CAN REACH THE SURFACE ...

HE'S SOME-
WHERE BELOW
ME! I'VE
GOT TO
BRING
HIM
TO ME!

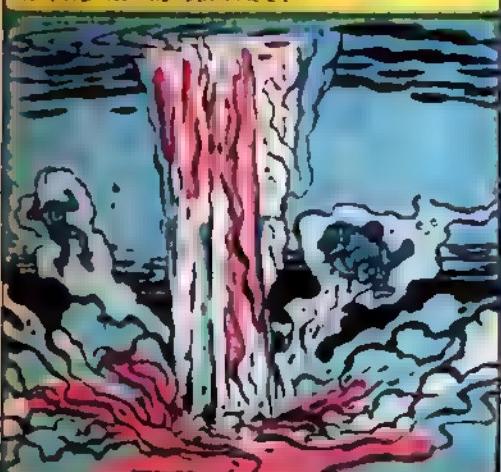


AND
THIS IS
ONE
SURE
WAY TO
DO IT!

I'LL SEND A
GEYSER OF
HEAT
SURGING
DOWN TO
HIM!

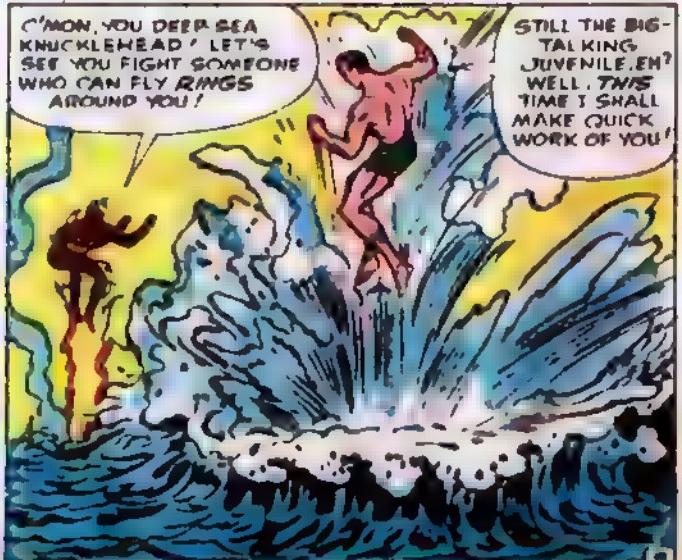


SO INTENSE IS THE BOILING HEAT BEAM THAT
IT VIRTUALLY COOKS THE KELP MAKING IT
SOFT AS SPAGHETTI, ENABLING THE THING
TO ROB TO THE SURFACE!



C'MON, YOU DEEP-SEA
KNUCKLEHEAD! LET'S
SEE YOU FIGHT SOMEONE
WHO CAN FLY RINGS
AROUND YOU!

STILL THE BIG-
TALK KING,
JUVENILE, EH?
WELL, THIS
TIME I SHALL
MAKE QUICK
WORK OF YOU!



I SEE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ONE OF MY MANY POWERS... THE POWER TO DUPLICATE THE ATTACK OF THE ELECTRIC EEL!

HE'S STARTING TO GLOW! COMING SO FAST... CAN'T GET AWAY IN TIME!

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED TORCH CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, NAMOR STRIKES...

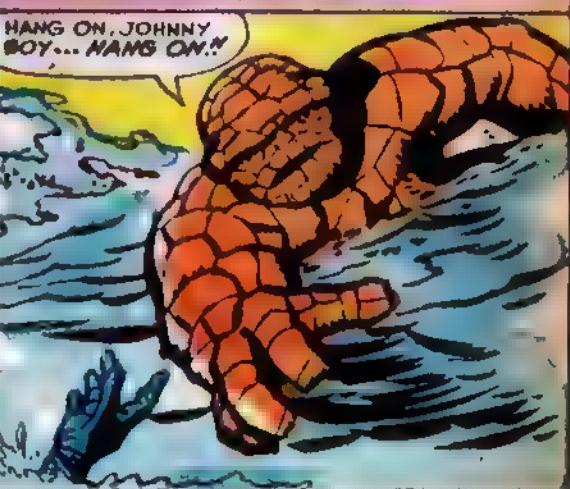
OHHH!



MOMENTARILY STUNNED BY THE ELECTRICAL IMPACT, HIS FLAME GOES OUT, AND THE VALIANT TEEN-AGER BEGINS TO PLUNGE DOWNWARD...



BUT, BY NOW THE THING HAS RECOVERED HIS ALMOST LIMITLESS STRENGTH, AND, SEEING HIS YOUNG PARTNER'S PREDICAMENT...



THE KID'S OUT... BUT HE'S STILL BREATHIN'!

THAT'S LUCKY FOR NAMOR! IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THE TORCH, THERE WOULDN'T BE A SPOT IN THE OCEAN DEEP ENOUGH FOR FISH-FACE TO HIDE FROM ME!

THERE'S NAMOR - HALF CONSCIOUS HIMSELF! THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK MUSTA WEAKENED HIM, TOO! BUT IF I LEAVE HIM HERE, THE WATER'LL REVIVE HIM, MAKIN' HIM STRONGER THAN EVER!

I'VE GOT TO FIGGER OUT SOME WAY TO GET HIM AND JOHNNY BACK TO THE REEF! AS DEAR OL' AUNT PETUNIA WOULD SAY: "BENJAMIN, YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM."



I BETTER NOT WASTE TOO MUCH TIME 'IF THERE'S AN INVADIN' ARMY FOLLOWIN' NAMOR, THEY CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND BY NOW!

WELL, THE ONLY THING TO DO IS TO HOLD ONE IN EACH PAW AND KICK MYSELF BACK TO THE REEF!

THE SOUL OF AMBITION, MY PANTIN' PUBLIC OUGHTTA KNOW ABOUT THIS!

I BETTER SPEED IT UP FOR A WHILE 'IF WE DON'T GET BACK HOME SOON, WE'LL MIRS THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES!



I'LL LEAVE FLATHEAD THERE TO DRY OUT FOR A WHILE 'I WOULDN'T WANNA TAKE 'IM HOME SOAKIN' WET 'HE MIGHT RUIN THE CARPETS'



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PLAY 1964 BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES

- PITCHING
- HITTING
- FIELDING
- RUNNING
- MANAGING

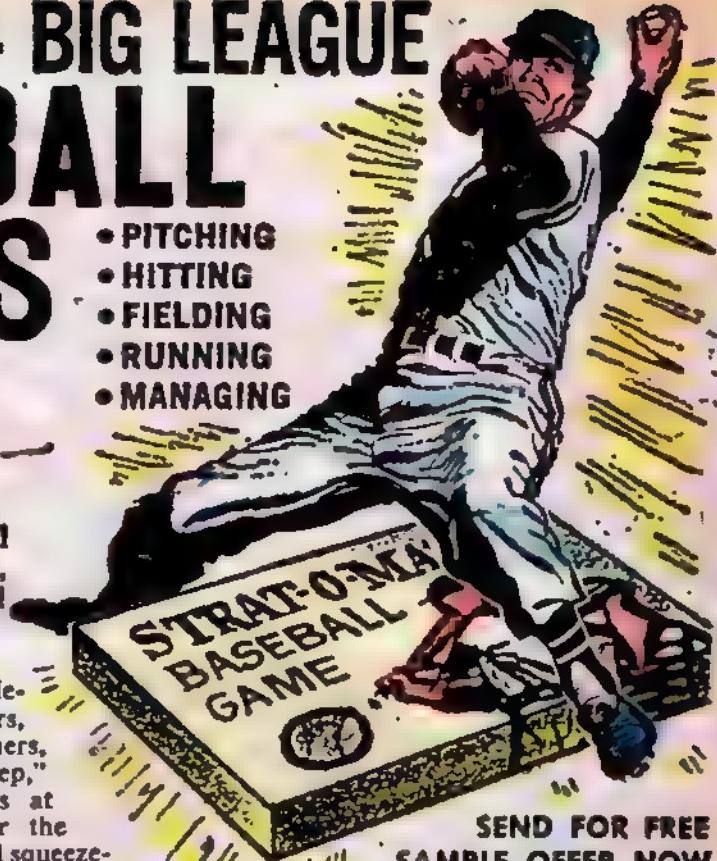
Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions. You, the manager, call all strategy moves for all 20 major league teams.

You, the manager, not only decide lineups, insert pinch-hitters, pinch-runners, and relief pitchers, play your infield "in or deep," and make defensive changes at any time, but also call for the sacrifice, steal, hit-and-run, and squeeze-play. All strategy moves are possible with STRAT-O-MATIC.

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For example, in batting Dick Stuart will be among the leaders in both homeruns and strikeouts. Albie Pearson will be



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among your batting average leaders, but will hit less homeruns than the average ballplayer.

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Name _____

Address _____

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"THAT'S BACK INTO THE SEA WITH YOU,
YOU LUMBERING OAF! AND THIS TIME
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU REMAIN!"

"I'M AWARE THAT MY BLOWS CAUSE
YOU NO HARM HERE ON THE SURFACE!
BUT, ONCE WE'RE IN THE WATER
AGAIN, MY POWER WILL BE
MAGNIFIED MANY TIMES..."

"YOU THINK YOU CAN
BEAT US BECAUSE YOU'RE
AMPHIBIOUS, BUT YOU'VE
GOT ANOTHER THING
COMIN' MOFO! NOBODY
GIVES MY ORANGE-
SKINNED BUDDY A
DINKIN' WITHOUT
ANSWERING TO
ME!"

"DON'T COUNT ON IT,
BUTTCRACK! JUST CAUSE
YA CAUGHT ME OFF BALANCE
THIS ONCE DON'T MEAN I'M LICKED!"

"NOT IF I
CAN HELP
IT WET-
HEAD!"

"I'M STILL TWO
WET TO FLAME
ON AGAIN, BUT I
CAN MAKE MY
BODY GROWING
NOT ANYWAY!
AND IF I GET
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO NAME..."

"THERE! FEELS LIKE A KING-
SIZE SAMBLIN',
EH?"

"MUCH OBLIGED, LITTLE BUDDY!
NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP ASIDE,
IT'S GETTIN' CLOSE TO
CLOSBERIN' TIME!"

"BUT AT THAT MOMENT, A COAST GUARD
PATROL PLANE FLIGHTS THE THREE
COMBATANTS, AND IMMEDIATELY
RADIOS A REPORT TO THE MAINLAND."

"AND HAVING RETURNED TO
FF HEADQUARTERS BY NOW,
REED AND SUE HEAR THE
STARTLING NEWS..."

"OH, REED! IF
JOHNNY AND
BEN ARE
FIGHTING
NAMOR AT
SEA, HE
HAS ALL THE
ADVANTAGES!"

"I KNOW.
SUB I HEAD
FOR THE ROOF
TOP HANGAR,
WE'D GOING
AFTER THEM!"

"WITHIN SECONDS, ONE OF THE
WORLD'S MOST WIDELY KNOWN
AIRCRAFT CAN BE SEEN SILENTLY
WINGING TOWARDS THE ATLANTIC
OCEAN..."

"SUB MARINER SIGHTED!
BATTALION ON REEF WITH
THING AND HUMAN TORCH!
EXACT LOCATION IS AS
FOLLOWS..."



"WHY DIDN'T
THEY NOTIFY
US THAT
THEY WERE
GOING TO
FIGHT THE
SUB-MARINER?"

"I DON'T
KNOW,
HONEY, BUT
I'M SURE
GOING TO
FIND OUT!"



FLYING AT MAXIMUM SPEED, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF SECONDS BEFORE THE AMAZING CRAFT LEAVES THE SHORELINE FAR BEHIND...

REED, DO YOU THINK THAT...? QUIET, SUE! I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON MY NAVIGATION SO WE DON'T OVER-SHOOT OUR MARK!

IF... IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO BEN... OR MY BROTHER JOHNNY...

DON'T SAY IT, HONEY! THOSE TWO ARE BOTH BATTLE-TRAINED! THEY KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES!

AND THEN... SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

LOOK! DOWN BELOW! IT'S THEM!

BEN, LOOK! THE FANTASTI-CAR! THEY FOUND US!!

WELL, AIN'T THAT GINGER PEACHY?! I WAS ABOUT TO PLANT MY HAYMAKER ON NAMOR... AND I'M NOT STOPPIN' NOW!

BOOM!

HEY! WHERE'D HE GO??!

JUST LIKE I ALWAYS SAID! WHAT YOU GET FOR LOOKING AT THE PLANE BEFORE YOU BELTED HIM! HE DOVE INTO THE SEA!

BUT IT IS NOT FEAR THAT CAUSES THE POWERFUL SUB-MARINER TO LEAVE THE SCENE... FOR THE PROUD PRINCE NAMOR FEARS NOTHING THAT LIVES!

NO, IT IS SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT THAT DRIVES HIM OFF...

HE LIED TO ME! AND A PRINCE OF THE BLOOD, OF THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS, CAN NEVER TOLERATE A LIE!!

WHAT LIE IS NAMOR REFERRING TO?? AND HOW DOES THAT AFFECT OUR TALE? WE SHALL LEARN THE ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE...



JOHNNY! BEN!
WHY DID YOU
TACKLE NAMOR
ALONE...WITHOUT
NOTIFYING US??

HECK! WE AIN'T KIDS,
MISTER! WE WANTED TO
PROVE WE COULD BEAT
'IM BY OURSELVES!!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU DID!! YOU
JUST RUINED A PROJECT I'VE BEEN
WORKING ON FOR WEEKS! NAMOR
WASN'T PLANNING ANY TROUBLE! HE
HAD NO ARMY FOLLOWING HIM! HE
WAS COMING TO MEET ME!!

AND WE
ALMOST
DID, TOO!

THAT'S RIGHT! I FINALLY CONVINCED HIM TO
COME TO OUR HEADQUARTERS ALONE, AND TALK
PEACE WITH US! BUT NOW, HE'LL NEVER
BELIEVE IT WASN'T A TRAP! WE'VE
LOST OUR CHANCE!

AWWW,
NO!!

AND THOSE REPORTERS YOU DROVE OFF!
THEY ONLY WANTED TO INTERVIEW SUE AND ME
BECAUSE THEY WERE WRITING AN ARTICLE
ABOUT YOU TWO, AND THEY WANTED IT TO BE
A SURPRISE...BUT THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER
RETURN!

AND WE
THOUGHT
WE WERE
BEING SO
CLEVER!!

THEN, AS THE FABULOUS FOURSOME HEAD FOR HOME, A SILENT BROODING HEAD LIFTS OUT OF THE WATER
AND WATCHES THEM DEPART...

THEY TRIED TO DECEIVE
ME! I WAS LUCKY TO
ESCAPE SO EASILY! BUT
THEY WILL NEVER GET
ANOTHER CHANCE TO BETRAY
MY TRUST! NEXT TIME WE MEET,
IT SHALL BE A BATTLE
TO THE FINISH!!

THE END

WHICH JUST GOES TO PROVE THAT IT IS SOMETIMES POSSIBLE TO BE TOO CLEVER. EVEN
IF YOU AND YOUR BUDDY ARE "THE IDOLS OF MILLIONS"! ANYWAY, THE GANG HERE AT
THE BULLPEN IS ALL EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEXT BIG TORCH/THING ADVENTURE--SO, TO
SEE WHAT'S COOKING, DON'T MISS THE GREAT #126 ISH OF STRANGE TALES!
AND NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN BLACK MAGIC. READY? OKAY--LET'S GO-

Come On, Fella
Grab This Chance to
MAKE \$1 to \$5 WEEKLY
and
Win DANDY PRIZES, Too



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Post Office _____ State _____

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Last Name
Plainly Here

Zip Code No.

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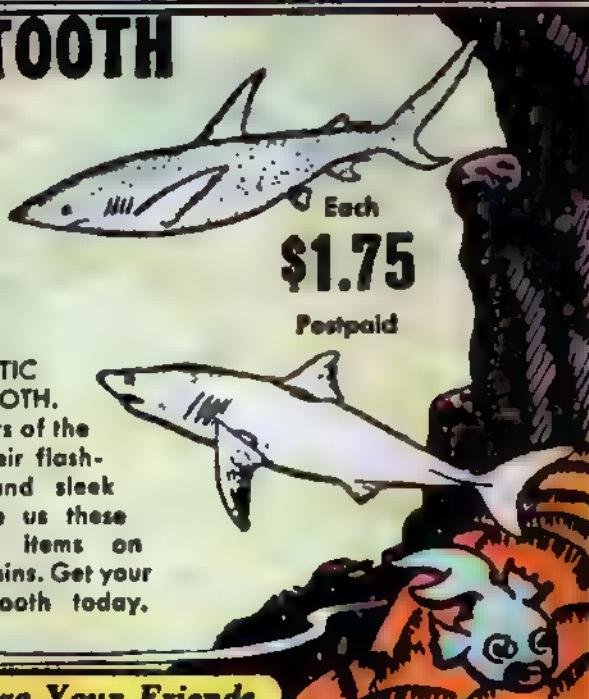
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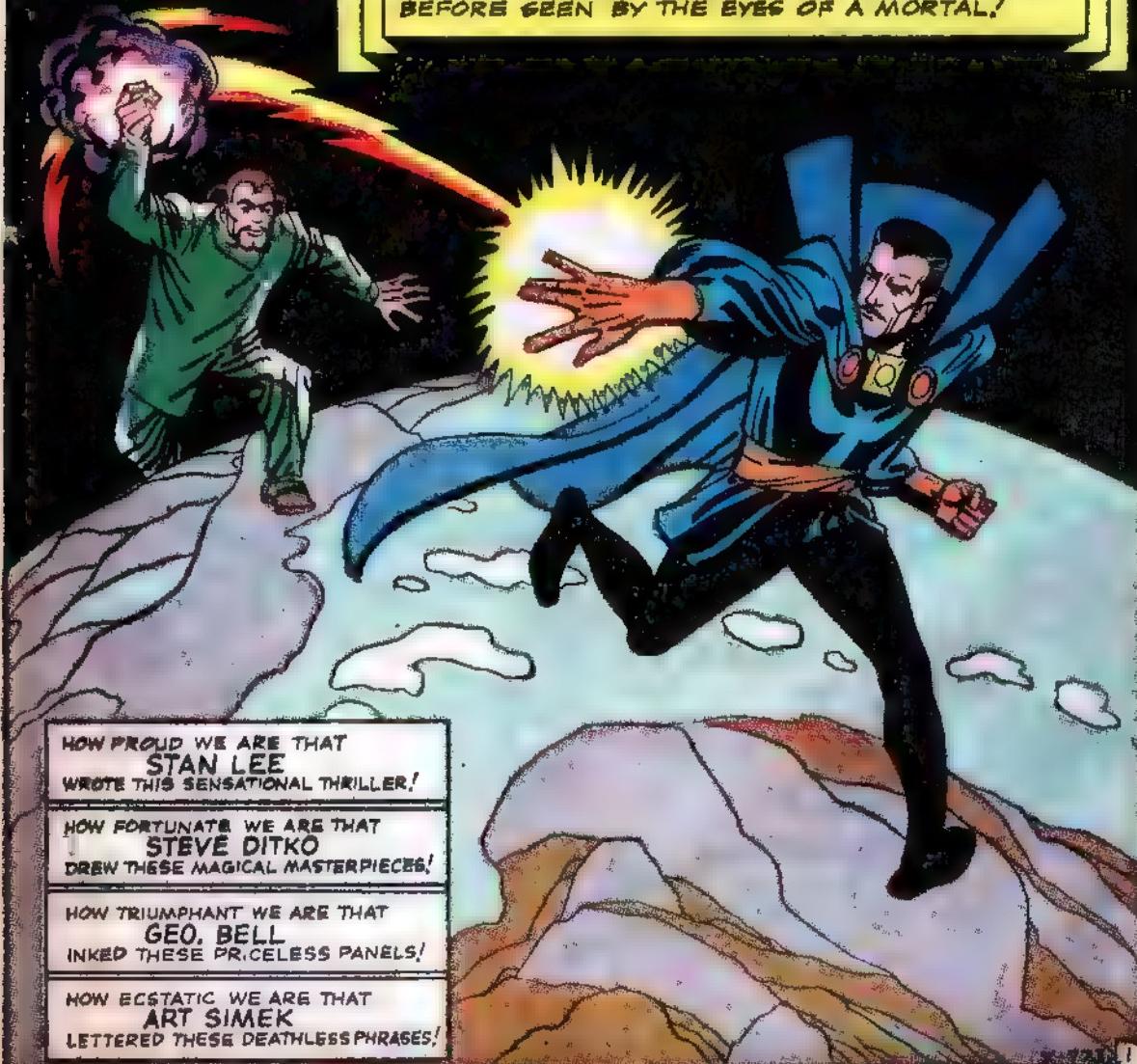
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DR. STRANGE

MASTER
OF THE
MYSTIC ARTS!

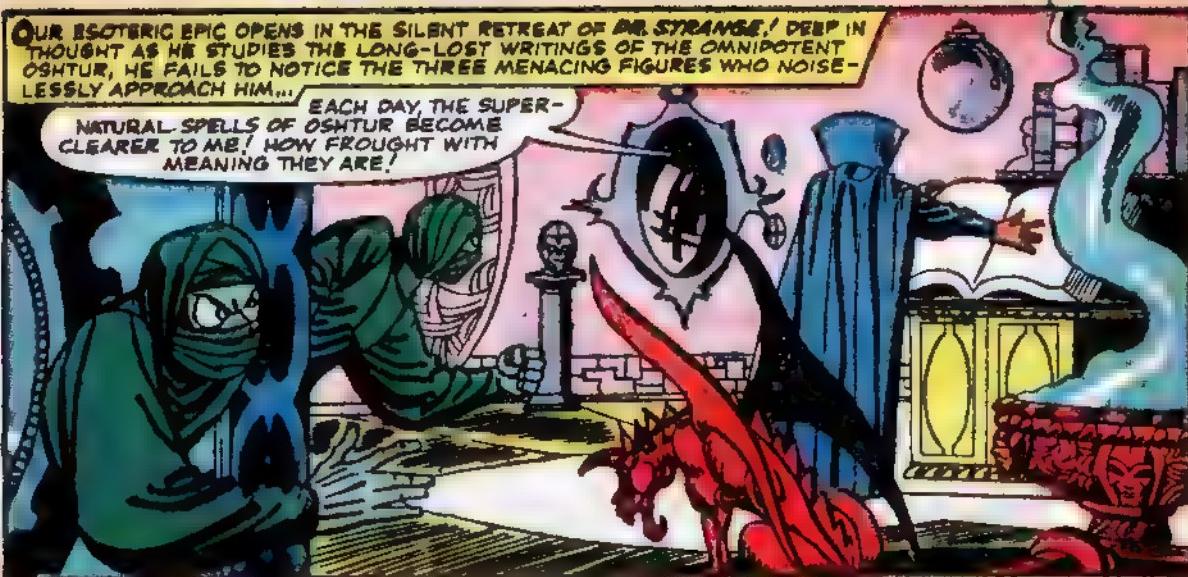
"MORDO MUST NOT CATCH ME!"

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OUR ESOTERIC EPIC OPENS IN THE SILENT RETREAT OF MR. STRANGE! DEEP IN THOUGHT AS HE STUDIES THE LONG-LOST WRITINGS OF THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR, HE FAILS TO NOTICE THE THREE MENACING FIGURES WHO NOISELESSLY APPROACH HIM...

EACH DAY THE SUPER-NATURAL SPELLS OF OSHTUR BECOME CLEAER TO ME! HOW FROUGHT WITH MEANING THEY ARE!



BUT, SUDDENLY, GUIDED BY SOME SUBTLE INSTINCT, THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS SODDENLY TURNS...

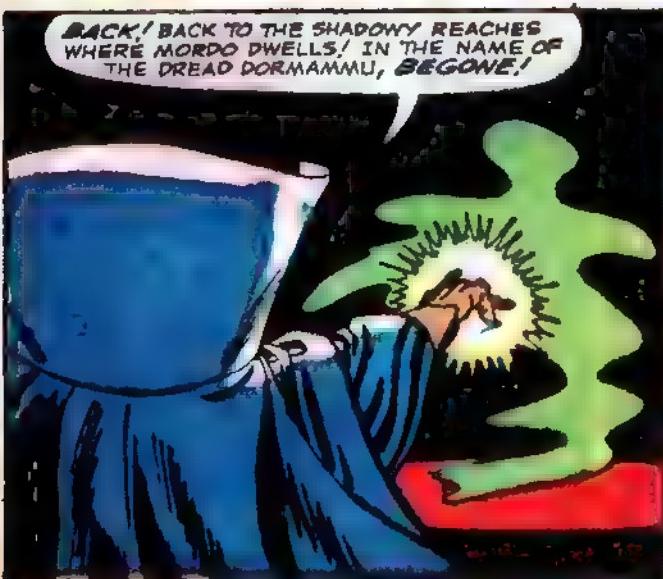
I SENSE SOMETHING BEHIND ME--A SUDDEN DANGER!



THREE FOLLOWERS OF THE EVIL MORDO!! YOU DARE ATTACK ME HERE?? HERE, WHERE MY POWER IS STRONGEST!! WHERE MY MYSTIC DEFENSES ARE IMPREGNABLE!!



BACK! BACK TO THE SHADOWY REACHES WHERE MORDO DWELLS! IN THE NAME OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU, BEGONE!



MORDO MUST HAVE KNOWN HIS THREE DISCIPLES WOULD BE POWERLESS AGAINST ME, AND YET HE DISPATCHED THEM!



TO SOLVE THIS EERIE ENIGMA,
I SHALL NEED HELP! I MUST
ENTER MY CHAMBER
OF SHADOWS...

...WHERE STANDS
THE ALL-SEEING
EYE OF AGAMOTTO!

AT A GESTURE FROM DR. STRANGE,
THE MYSTIC GLOBE WHICH STANDS
BEFORE HIM IN THE GLOOM
SUDDENLY BURSTS INTO DAZZLING
LIGHT, REVEALING THE CONTOURS
OF EVERY LAND MASS TO BE FOUND
ON EARTH!

NOW, I MUST SEEK
THE DANGER AREA--

THERE IT IS! THE GLEAMING
BLUE BEAM! BUT--IT APPEARS
OVER TIBET--NEAR THE SANCTUARY
OF MY MASTER--THE
ANCIENT ONE!

I MUST
CONTACT
HIM AT
ONCE!

TRY AS I MAY--I RECEIVE
NO MENTAL EMANATIONS
FROM MY VENERABLE
MENTOR! I CANNOT REACH
HIM WITH MY THOUGHTS!!

THEREFORE, LET THE POWER
OF MY ENCHANTED AMULET
ENTER MY BRAIN! AND, THUS
ARMED, I SHALL ACHIEVE
MY AIM!

NOW I MUST
CONCENTRATE--
CONCENTRATE--
DRIVE ALL ELSE
FROM MY MIND!
I MUST BRING
THE ANCIENT ONE'S
RETREAT INTO
SHARP FOCUS!!

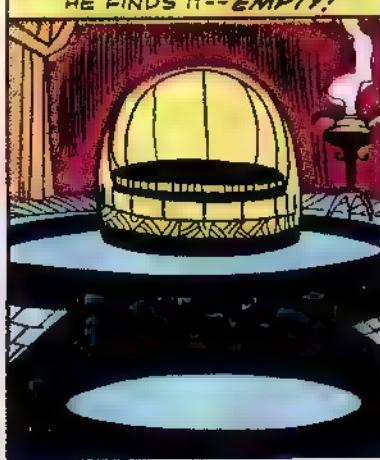
I'VE DONE IT! BUT
THERE IS MORE TO
DO! I MUST STILL
PEER BEHIND THE
CONCEALING WALLS--!

SLOWLY, THE WALLS SEEM TO MELT AWAY AS DR. STRANGE'S ENCHANTED AMULET BRINGS THE INTERIOR OF THE HIDDEN SANCTUARY INTO VIEW...

BUT, WHEN THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC FINALLY REACHES HIS OBJECTIVE, THE UNIQUE CHAIR WHICH STANDS IN THE CENTER OF THE CHAMBER, HE FINDS IT--EMPTY!

THE ANCIENT ONE IS GONE!! BUT THAT CAN NOT BE!! HE NEVER LEAVES HIS CHAMBER!!

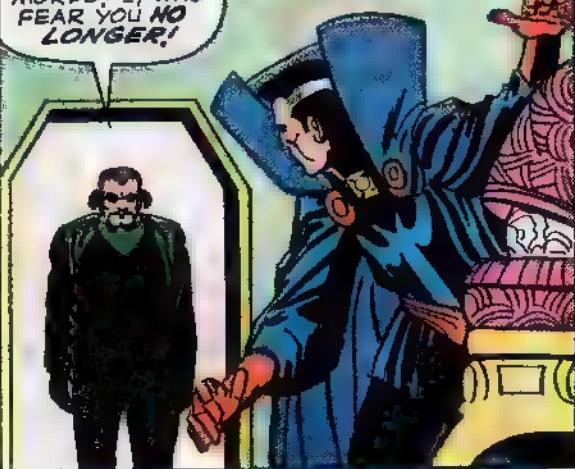
NEVER-- UNTIL NOW!! FOR I HAVE CHANGED THINGS, STRANGE!



MORDO!! HERE IN MY OWN SANCTUM SANCTORUM!!

YES, STRANGE--
IT IS I, BARON
MORDO! I, WHO
FEAR YOU NO
LONGER!

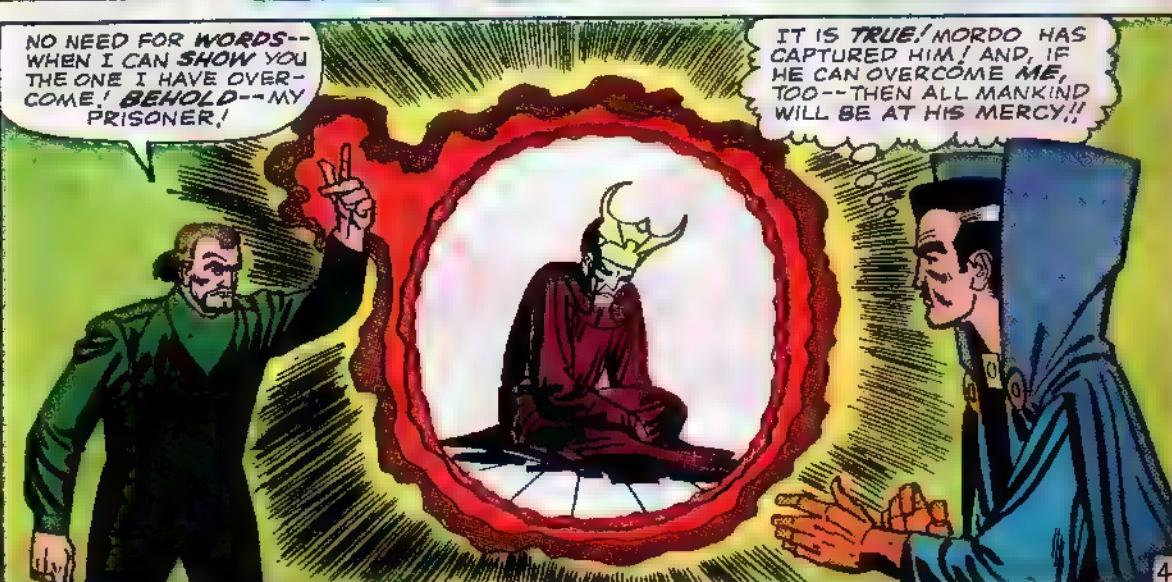
FOR I HAVE CAPTURED THE ANCIENT ONE! HE IS IN A PLACE WHERE HE CAN HELP YOU NO MORE! AND, WITHOUT HIS AID, YOUR POWER CAN NEVER MATCH MINE!



I CARE NOT FOR MY OWN SAFETY! BUT, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE MASTER?? SPEAK, EVIL ONE!!

NO NEED FOR WORDS--
WHEN I CAN SHOW YOU
THE ONE I HAVE OVER-
COME! BEHOLD--MY
PRISONER!

IT IS TRUE! MORDO HAS
CAPTURED HIM! AND, IF
HE CAN OVERCOME ME,
TOO--THEN ALL MANKIND
WILL BE AT HIS MERCY!!



THEN, WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, ANXIOUS TO HURL ALL HIS DARK AND DIABOLICAL POWER AGAINST HIS ETERNAL ENEMY, MORDO STRIKES! BUT, ALTHOUGH ON THE DEFENSIVE, DR. STRANGE HIMSELF IS FAR FROM HELPLESS!

NOW THERE IS NO ONE YOU CAN TURN TO--NONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU FROM MY IRRESISTIBLE ATTACK!



BAH! SEE HOW EASILY I CAUSE YOUR PUNY DEFENSES TO CRUMBLE! THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE--FOR I WILL STOP AT NOTHING!



SO! NOW YOU TRY TO FLEE!

BUT, REMEMBER--THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH--NOR ABOVE OR BELOW--THAT YOU CAN ESCAPE TO WHERE I CANNOT EFFORTLESSLY FOLLOW!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, EVIL ONE!



CHANGING TO YOUR OCTOPALMIC FORM IS A USELESS GESTURE, STRANGE, FOR, MY SPIRIT FORM IS EQUALY AS FAST--AND FAR MIGHTIER!

PERHAPS, BUT, BY FORCING YOU TO FIGHT IN THIS MANNER I SEE TO IT THAT NO INNOCENT MUMAN'S WILL BE INJURED!



WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS HAS EVER BEEN YOUR FATAL WEAKNESS, STRANGE! I AM HAMPERED BY NO SUCH SENSELESS FEARS!



SECURE IN MY POWER, I STRIKE AT WILL--WITH NEVER A CARE FOR ANY WHO MAY BLUNDER INTO HARM!

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT SUCH A MENACE MUST NEVER BE PERMITTED TO ROAM THE EARTH UNCHECKED!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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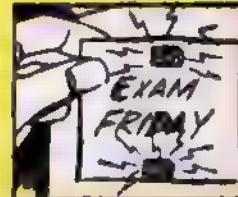
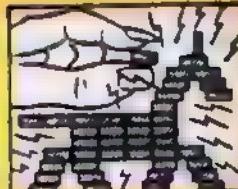
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This is a perfect
actual replica
of the famous
Confederate
Bank Note.

THE MESSAGE

SOME people relax in strange ways. Bill Benson had his own formula for off-hour peace and pleasure. Bill liked to go down to the docks and sit and stare at the ocean. It was just as simple as that.

Bill was employed at the Bayshore Foundry. He worked there because the pay was good and he had to support his elderly parents, but he hated every minute of it. The plant was a beehive of noise and activity. It was the unceasing drone of huge machinery that sapped Bill's stamina more than the constant hustle and bustle. That's why he was always so thankful when Fridays rolled around. For the week end spelled that special form of escape for him.

He liked to sit on the wharves and watch the waves wash ashore. He liked to trail his toes in the cool water and count the combers in the distance. He was soothed by the slapping sound of the sea against the piers and the shrill call of the gulls as they swooped over the surf. He enjoyed the fresh salty smell of the air.

Here, he was happy. He hoped that someday he'd find a way to combine his love for the sea with his form of employment. If only he wouldn't have to work at the foundry . . .

His thoughts were interrupted by the sight of a bottle bobbing up and down with the motion of the waves. "Looks like a piece of paper inside," Bill mumbled

to himself. "Maybe it's some kind of SOS."

He smiled at the range of his imagination. Nevertheless, he kept his eyes focused on the bottle until it came close. Curiosity claimed him. He rolled up his trousers, waded out in the shallow surf and picked up the bottle. Bill removed the stopper, extracted the damp note and examined it closely.

"Why, it is a help call!" he breathed excitedly. His eyes raced over the contents of the crude message:

PLEASE HELP ME. I
WAS SHANGHAIED ON
FREIGHTER, ALBATROSS.
HELD PRISONER FROM
MARSEILLES TO MAN-
HATTAN. UNDER GUARD
IN A COAL SHED NEAR
PIER 27. I'M NOT RICH,
CAN'T OFFER REWARD.
NEED HELP BY NOON
SATURDAY OR IT'LL BE
TOO LATE. HURRY!

Bill puzzled over the note for a few moments. It was crudely printed with a crayon on rough wrapping paper and it was unsigned. The man was being held prisoner, yet he had found free time to write a lengthy letter for help without being detected. He had also managed to place the note in a tightly-corked bottle and waft it on the waves. It was strange to say the least.

His first impulse was to rush headlong to help, but then he checked himself. It might be dangerous. He didn't even know

the person involved. Why should he risk it?

But Bill's sense of fair play overcame his caution. He crossed the pier to the wooden walk that spanned the waterfront. He acted casually unconcerned as he neared the coal shed on pier 27. Nobody was about, so Bill boldly opened the door and plunged into the dark interior. He found a small room at the rear of the shed . . . empty!

There were, however, signs of a struggle. A chair was splintered, a table overturned and a canvas cot collapsed. There were some strips of toweling on the floor next to an empty flour sack.

He must have put up quite a fight, Bill thought. That toweling was probably used to bind and gag him, and they must have put that sack over his head so that he wouldn't be able to identify anybody. How can I help that poor fellow? Perhaps he left some clue . . .

After a careful search, Bill finally found a note inside the pillow case on the cot. It was written in the same hand as the first one and its appeal was equally urgent.

THIS MAY BE THE END!
THEY'RE TAKING ME OUT
TO THE DOLPHIN IN THE
BAY. PRIVATE YACHT,
PROBABLY WELL-GUARDED.
PLEASE HELP!

Bill decided there was little time to lose. He ran to the

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

TO THOSE ADEPT IN THE MYSTIC ARTS, TIME AND SPACE ARE MEANINGLESS WHEN THEY ARE IN THEIR ECTOPLASMIC FORM! WITHIN SECONDS, DR. STRANGE CHANGES THE SCENE OF BATTLE TO THE VAST OCEAN AREA...

HAH! WHETHER ON LAND OR SEA, YOU CANNOT ELUDE ME!

AND FLEEING TO THE CALM COUNTRY-SIDE OF ENGLAND IS A USELESS MANEUVER! I EXPECTED MORE OF YOU, STRANGE!

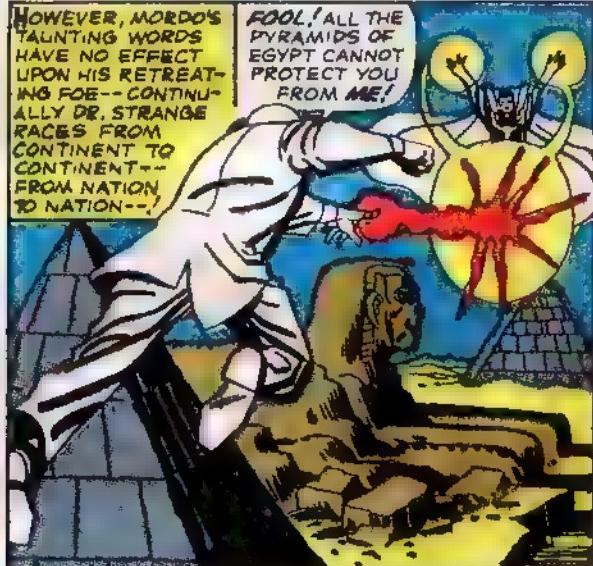
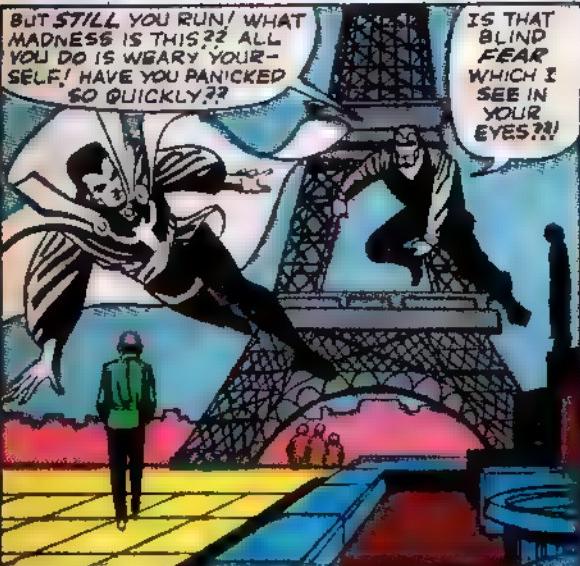


BUT STILL YOU RUN! WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?? ALL YOU DO IS WEARY YOURSELF! HAVE YOU PANICKED SO QUICKLY??

IS THAT BLIND FEAR WHICH I SEE IN YOUR EYES??

HOWEVER, MORDO'S TAINTING WORDS HAVE NO EFFECT UPON HIS RETREATING FOE--CONTINUALLY DR. STRANGE RACES FROM CONTINENT TO CONTINENT--FROM NATION TO NATION--!

FOOL! ALL THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT CANNOT PROTECT YOU FROM ME!



BUT STILL THE SILENT FUGITIVE CONTINUES HIS SEEMINGLY MEANINGLESS FLIGHT...

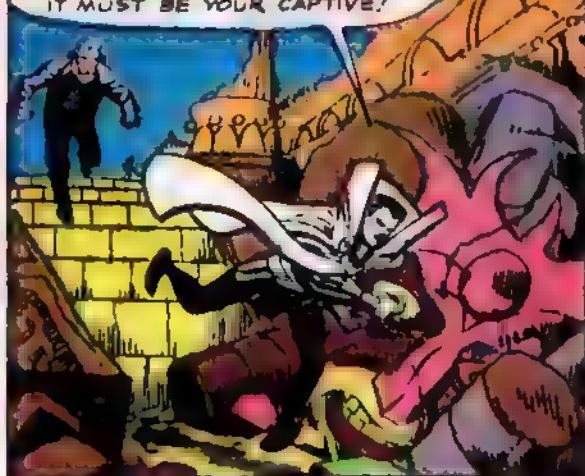
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, IN A HALF-HIDDEN JUNGLE IN THE VASTNESS OF THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS, THE ENCHANTED AMULET OF DR. STRANGE BEGINS TO SILENTLY GLOW...



"SO! YOU WERE NOT FLEEING ME IN HAPLESS FEAR!! YOU WERE STALLING FOR TIME, UNTIL YOU COULD LOCATE THIS SPOT!! BUT, YOU SHALL FIND IT WAS ALL IN VAIN!"

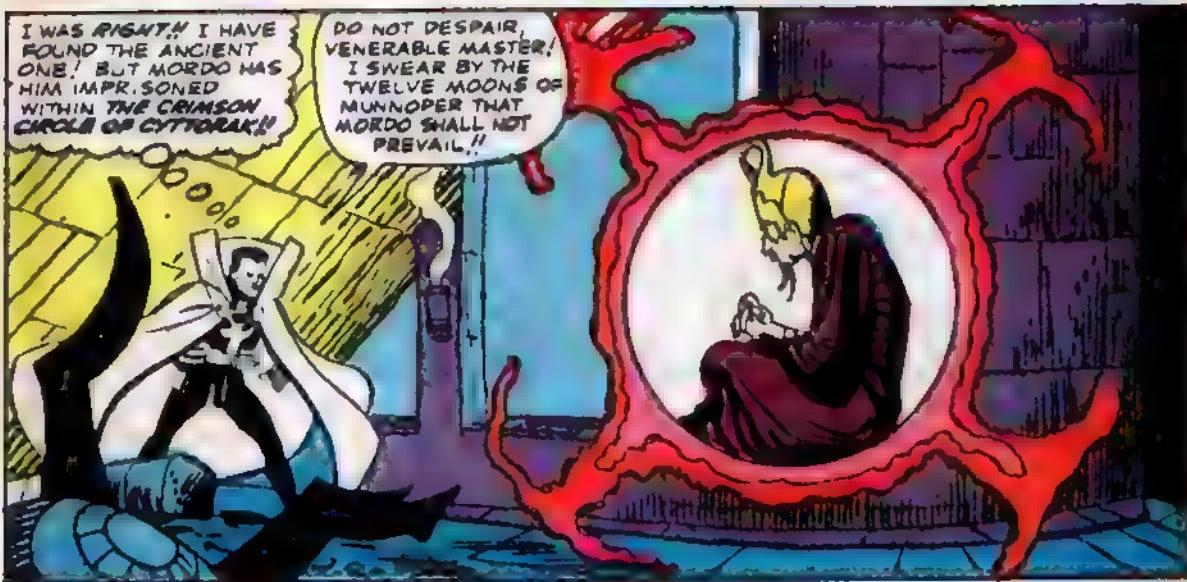
I MUST DESCEND!
MY GOAL IS
DIRECTLY BELOW!

NOW, MORDO--NOW WE SHALL SEE IF YOU ARE AS POWERFUL AS YOU CLAIM! FOR, AT LAST I HAVE FOUND YOUR HIDDEN HAVEN! AND WITHIN IT MUST BE YOUR CAPTIVE!



I WAS RIGHT! I HAVE FOUND THE ANCIENT ONE! BUT MORDO HAS HIM IMPRISONED WITHIN THE CRIMSON CIRCLE OF CYTORAK!!

DO NOT DESPAIR, VENERABLE MASTER! I SWEAR BY THE TWELVE MOONS OF MUNNOPEK THAT MORDO SHALL NOT PREVAIL!!



YOU MAKE YOUR PLEDGES TOO LIGHTLY, STRANGE! YOU ARE WITHIN MY HAVEN -- FACING ME AT THE HEIGHT OF MY POWER-- WITH NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN, YOUR PLIGHT IS HOPELESS!

I DID NOT RUN IN FEAR OF YOU, MORDO! I MERELY PLAYED FOR TIME, UNTIL I COULD FIND THE ANCIENT ONE! BUT NOW--I RUN NO MORE!



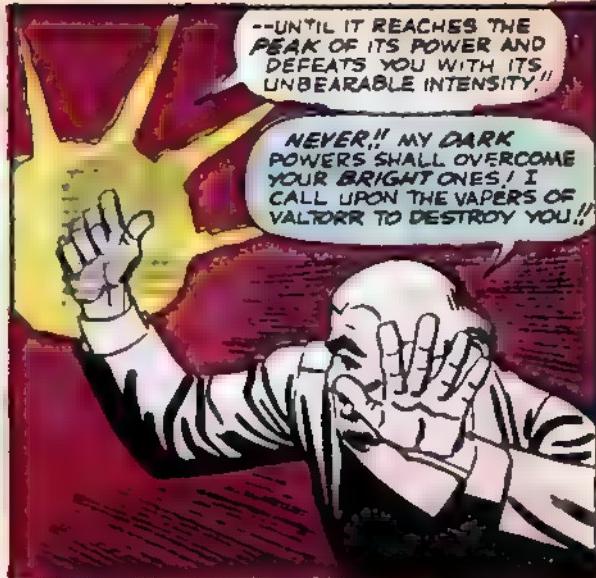
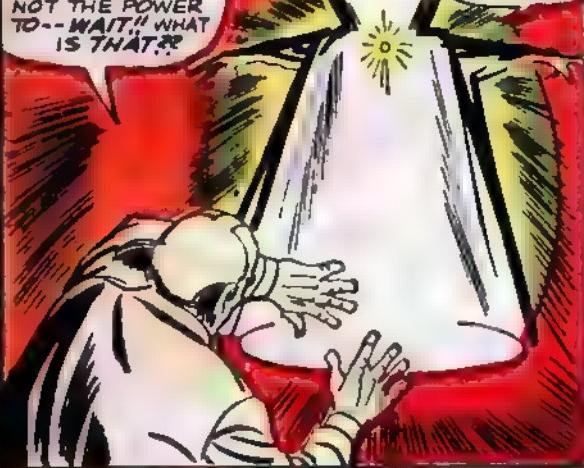
NOW, BY ALL THE POWERS OF THE ETERNAL VIBHANTI, I SHALL HURL YOUR TAUNTS BACK INTO YOUR TEETH--I SHALL FREE THE ONE YOU DARED TO MAKE YOUR PRISONER!!



NEVER!! HE CAN NEVER BE FREE UNTIL I HAVE BEEN VANQUISHED!! AND YOU HAVE NOT THE POWER TO--WAIT!! WHAT IS THAT??

IT IS THE SURGING AWESOME ENERGY OF MY AMULET-- GROWING EVER BRIGHTER -- EVER STRONGER--

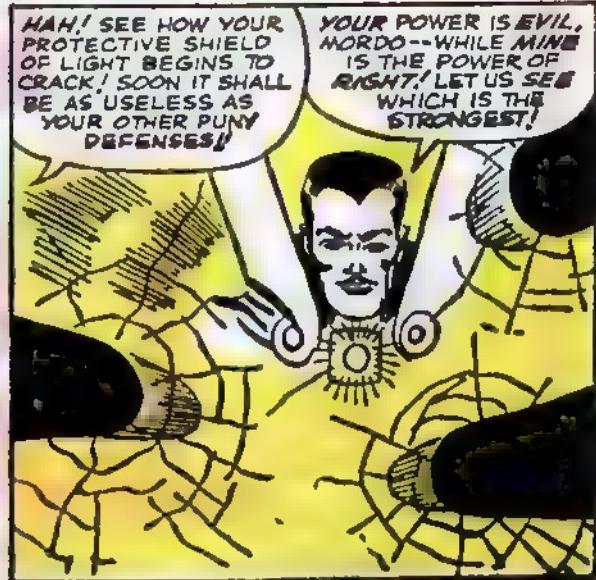
--UNTIL IT REACHES THE PEAK OF ITS POWER AND DEFEATS YOU WITH ITS UNBEARABLE INTENSITY!!



LET THE HOARY HAND OF HOGGOOTH GUIDE MY ATTACK AS I DIRECT ALL MY DESTRUCTIVE FORCE AGAINST YOUR ACCURSED AMULET!

HAH! SEE HOW YOUR PROTECTIVE SHIELD OF LIGHT BEGINS TO CRACK! SOON IT SHALL BE AS USELESS AS YOUR OTHER PUNY DEFENSES!!

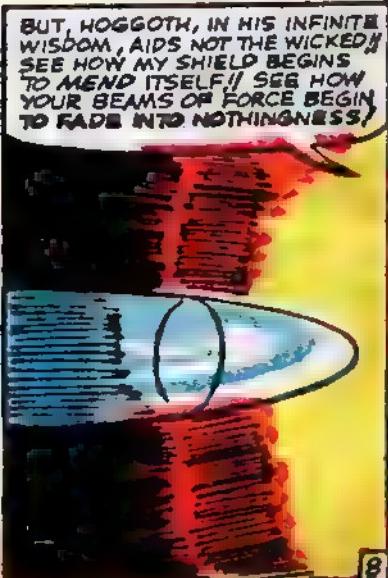
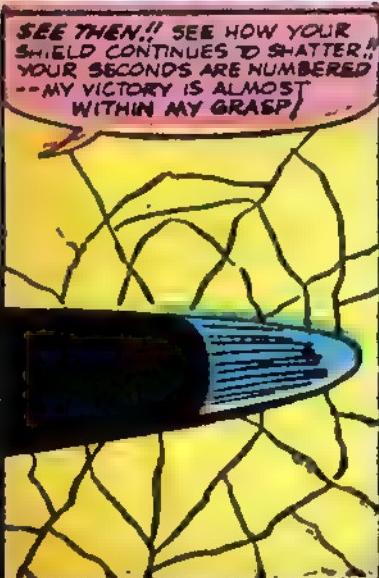
YOUR POWER IS EVIL, MORDO--WHILE MINE IS THE POWER OF RIGHT! LET US SEE WHICH IS THE STRONGEST!



SEE THEN!! SEE HOW YOUR SHIELD CONTINUES TO SHATTER!! YOUR SECONDS ARE NUMBERED -- MY VICTORY IS ALMOST WITHIN MY GRASP!

NOT SO, MORDO! FOR YOU HAVE MADE ONE IRREVOCABLE ERROR! YOU DARED CALL UPON THE HOARY HAND OF HOGGOOTH TO HELP YOU--

BUT, HOGGOOTH, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, AIDS NOT THE WICKED!! SEE HOW MY SHIELD BEGINS TO MEND ITSELF!! SEE HOW YOUR BEAMS OF FORCE BEGIN TO FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS!!



DO YOU SUPPOSE I HAVE ONLY ONE FORM OF ATTACK?? SEE HOW I CAN BLOT OUT THE VERY LIGHT OF YOUR SHIELD WITH MY DARK VAPORS OF VALTORR!!



THERE!! NOW, THOUGH YOU REMAIN SAFE WITHIN YOUR SHIELD, YOU ARE ALSO HELPLESS!! YOU ARE NOW MY PRISONER FOR AS LONG AS THE VAPORS ENDURE!!



AND, AS YOU KNOW FULL WELL-- MY POWERS ARE EVER-LASTING!! THEY WILL NEVER FADE!



YES--THEY ARE EVER-LASTING--UNLESS THEY SHOULD BE BUFFETED BY A STRONGER POWER--



--SUCH AS THE BLINDING LIGHT OF THE ETERNAL VISHANTI!!



WHY DO I HEAR YOUR BOASTS NO LONGER, MORDOR??

IS THERE NO LIMIT TO HIS SPELLS??! I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK-- TO PLAN!



DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM THE EYE OF MY AMULET, MORDOR??



SEE HOW THE LIGHT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN EVER DISSIPATE THE DARK CLOUD OF EVIL!! FOR YOU THERE IS NO HIDING PLACE, MORDOR!



I'LL WRAP MYSELF IN A PROTECTIVE CLOAK OF DARKNESS!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE CLOAK OF DARKNESS IS GONE, AND MORDO STANDS ALONE AND UNPROTECTED BEFORE HIS AVENGING ARCH-ENEMY!

THE AMULET'S LIGHT--IT'S LIKE A LIVING THING--LIKE A CRUSHING, POWERFUL FORCE WHICH ATTACKS ME--WHICH DRIVES ME HELPLESSLY BEFORE IT!



AWAY! TAKE IT AWAY! I CANNOT BEAR IT! IT SEEMS TO PERMEATE MY ENTIRE BEING--TO PENETRATE THE VERY CORE OF MY INNER SELF!

I SHALL TAKE IT AWAY--AFTER YOU HAVE FREED THE ANCIENT ONE!



A BRIEF MOMENT LATER...



AND WHAT OF MORDO, MASTER? HE HAS COMMITTED THE UNPARDONABLE OFFENSE OF ATTACKING YOUR INVIOABLE PERSON!

REMEMBER YOUR PLEDGE, MY SON! WITH OUR GREAT POWER, WE MUST NEVER KNOWINGLY CAUSE HARM TO ANY! IT IS ONLY THE WEAK WHO CAN ALLOW THEMSELVES THE LUXURY OF RETRIBUTION!



MORDO NOW KNOWS THE MEASURE OF YOUR POWERS--HE KNOWS THE MIGHT YOU POSSESS! HE WILL NOT DARE ATTACK US AGAIN--NOT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!



AND SO, THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC, AND HIS VENERABLE MENTOR DEPART, AS A HUSH FALLS OVER THE DESOLATE HALF-HIDDEN AREA! NAUGHT REMAINS TO MARK THE MYSTIC BATTLE THAT HAS BEEN FOUGHT--NAUGHT SAVE A WISPY MEMORY WHICH EVEN NOW FADES INTO THE SHADOWY NOTHINGNESS FROM WHENCE IT CAME!



NOTE: DR. STRANGE IS CURRENTLY GUEST-STARRING IN THOR #108--A TALE WHICH FANS OF THE SUPERNATURAL WILL NOT WANT TO MISS! AND, WE PROMISE BY THE SEVEN RINGS OF RAGGADORN, THAT HE WILL AGAIN APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISH OF STRANGE TALES! SO, TILL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY THE INNER EYE OF THE ENCHANTED AMULET EVER WATCH OVER YOU!

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"Have started my own tune-up and brake shop." — G. Gunz, Cal. "Am proud I finished course. Have two job offers." — Barden Vance, Ind. "Am working as a mechanic and earn twice what I used to. Made \$25 a week as I trained." — Jerome Slowik, Ill. "Am now a senior auto mechanic. Made \$800 during training." — Ronald Wharton, Ind.

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A cigar loaded with a trick spring. Cigar bursts when one third smoked and causes a panic.
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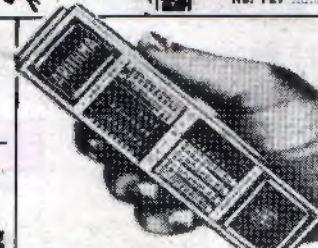
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ITEM # NAME OF ITEM QUANTITY TOTAL PRICE

I enclose

In full payment. The Honor House Products Corp. will pay postage.

Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

THE MESSAGE

SOME people relax in strange ways. Bill Benson had his own formula for off-hour peace and pleasure. Bill liked to go down to the docks and sit and stare at the ocean. It was just as simple as that.

Bill was employed at the Bay-shore Foundry. He worked there because the pay was good and he had to support his elderly parents, but he hated every minute of it. The plant was a beehive of noise and activity. It was the unceasing drone of huge machinery that sapped Bill's stamina more than the constant hustle and bustle. That's why he was always so thankful when Fridays rolled around. For the week end spelled that special form of escape for him.

He liked to sit on the wharves and watch the waves wash ashore. He liked to trail his toes in the cool water and count the combers in the distance. He was soothed by the slapping sound of the sea against the piers and the shrill call of the gulls as they swooped over the surf. He enjoyed the fresh salty smell of the air.

Here, he was happy. He hoped that someday he'd find a way to combine his love for the sea with his form of employment. If only he wouldn't have to work at the foundry . . .

His thoughts were interrupted by the sight of a bottle bobbing up and down with the motion of the waves. "Looks like a piece of paper inside," Bill mumbled

to himself. "Maybe it's some kind of SOS."

He smiled at the range of his imagination. Nevertheless, he kept his eyes focused on the bottle until it came close. Curiosity claimed him. He rolled up his trousers, waded out in the shallow surf and picked up the bottle. Bill removed the stopper, extracted the damp note and examined it closely.

"Why, it is a help call!" he breathed excitedly. His eyes raced over the contents of the crude message:

PLEASE HELP ME. I WAS SHANGHAIED ON FREIGHTER, ALBATROSS. HELD PRISONER FROM MARSEILLES TO MANHATTAN. UNDER GUARD IN A COAL SHED NEAR PIER 27. I'M NOT RICH, CAN'T OFFER REWARD. NEED HELP BY NOON SATURDAY OR IT'LL BE TOO LATE. HURRY!

Bill puzzled over the note for a few moments. It was crudely printed with a crayon on rough wrapping paper and it was unsigned. The man was being held prisoner, yet he had found free time to write a lengthy letter for help without being detected. He had also managed to place the note in a tightly-corked bottle and waft it on the waves. It was strange to say the least.

His first impulse was to rush headlong to help, but then he checked himself. It might be dangerous. He didn't even know

the person involved. Why should he risk it?

But Bill's sense of fair play overcame his caution. He crossed the pier to the wooden walk that spanned the waterfront. He acted casually unconcerned as he neared the coal shed on pier 27. Nobody was about, so Bill boldly opened the door and plunged into the dark interior. He found a small room at the rear of the shed . . . empty!

There were, however, signs of a struggle. A chair was splintered, a table overturned and a canvas cot collapsed. There were some strips of toweling on the floor next to an empty flour sack.

He must have put up quite a fight, Bill thought. That toweling was probably used to bind and gag him, and they must have put that sack over his head so that he wouldn't be able to identify anybody. How can I help that poor fellow? Perhaps he left some clue . . .

After a careful search, Bill finally found a note inside the pillow case on the cot. It was written in the same hand as the first one and its appeal was equally urgent.

THIS MAY BE THE END! THEY'RE TAKING ME OUT TO THE DOLPHIN IN THE BAY. PRIVATE YACHT, PROBABLY WELL-GUARDED. PLEASE HELP!

Bill decided there was little time to lose. He ran to the

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

CONTINUED

end of the pier where he spotted a rowboat. He leaped in and began to row furiously toward the sleek craft anchored in the bay. Within ten minutes, Bill tied up to the yacht. There was nobody patrolling, so he quickly climbed the Jacob's Ladder to the deck and then headed for the companionway that led to the cabins below.

As he turned the corridor, three men pounced on him. There was a brief scuffle, but Bill was no match for three burly sailors who pinioned his arms and marched him into a luxurious cabin. An old man sat behind the desk: He had a short, dark beard and a ruthless look.

"So you walked right into the trap, my foolhardy fellow," he grated. "Did you think I had no guards or that you could overcome them all by yourself? Don't you care about saving your own skin or calculating the odds against you?"

Bill felt the rage boiling up within him. "All right, you've got me, but you don't scare me. You're a coward keeping a man prisoner because you're afraid he'll expose your racket . . . whatever it is. Why should I

waste time worrying about the odds against me when a man's life is at stake? I'm not worried now either," Bill bluffed boldly, "because I contacted the police before I came out here. I suggest you release us both now and save yourself some trouble."

"Slick strategy," the bearded man applauded, "but it won't work. You should have contacted the police, but you didn't. I've been following you with these field glasses ever since you picked up the bottle. And there's no phone in the coal shed. You followed my instruction perfectly."

"Your instructions?" Bill asked bewilderedly. "You mean, you order your prisoner to write the notes? But why?"

"I guess there's no further need for deception," the man smiled sympathetically. "First, men, release him!"

"Actually, I'm the prisoner who wrote the notes! I'm also the owner of the freighter *ALBATROSS* and the *DOLPHIN*. I also own the J. B. White Steamship Line. I needed a good man to run my dock office. I wanted a man who loved the sea, a man with courage, imag-

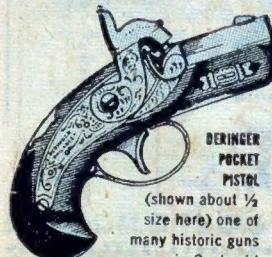
ination and a sense of fair play. I've watched you many week ends and wondered if you were the man for the job. I decided to test you.

"We had the notes prepared for you and it was quite a trick to get that bottle bobbing near you. If you lacked courage or decency, you'd never have gone to the coal shed. If you lacked the interest or ingenuity, you'd never have found the second note we planted in the pillow case. As it stands, I congratulate you on your courage and your character. Could I persuade you to accept my offer and leave your current employment? I may be eccentric, but my employees stand by me."

"Could I accept your offer?" Bill echoed happily. "Don't test me any further, Mr. White. You can keep me prisoner down here from now on."

THE END H-729

DAISY GUNBOOK READY!

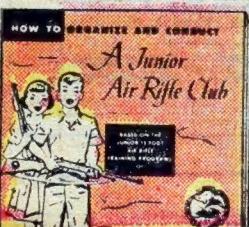


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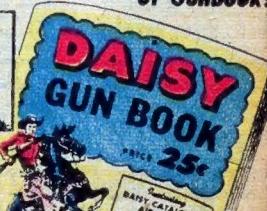
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